

# NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**July 18, 2003**

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## **MARKEY-COX AMENDMENT TO STOP TRANSFER OF ALL NUCLEAR TECH, MATERIALS TO N. KOREA PASSES HOUSE**

**WASHINGTON, DC-** Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Select Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee, and Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Task Force on Non-Proliferation, offered an amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill which was unanimously accepted by the House this morning. The amendment stops all transfer by the U.S. government of any nuclear technology or materials to North Korea.

Rep. Markey stated, "Today, while the Bush Administration furiously searches for evidence of nuclear weapons in Iraq, North Korea continually raises its hand to say 'Here it is – we've got nukes!' Under an amendment I offered today with Rep. Cox, the United States government will no longer be able to transfer nuclear materials and technology to North Korea."

In March, the Energy Department told Rep. Markey that since 1995, the United States had authorized the transfer of 3,100 documents relating to the construction and operation of a nuclear reactor to North Korea. 300 of these documents have already been transferred, and Bush Administration officials testified that no decision had yet been made on whether or not to revoke these approvals. Under the amendment, these transfers would now be illegal and all authority to transfer these or other nuclear technologies would be revoked.

In addition, the Markey-Cox amendment also effectively blocks the two light water reactors being completed in North Korea by the Korean Economic Development Organization (KEDO), even if built solely using South Korean and Japanese funding. This is because the reactor designs being built are U.S.-origin, and are based on a Westinghouse design. Under existing U.S. law and international agreements, prior U.S. consent is required for the retransfer of U.S.-origin nuclear technologies to any third country, and under the Cox-Markey amendment the U.S. could not approve any such retransfers to North Korea.

"While we go to war with Iraq to get rid of nuclear weapons which apparently do not exist, we continue to give the ingredients to develop nuclear weapons to another brutal dictator, Kim Jong Il, in North Korea. This two-headed non-proliferation policy must end."

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